



Messing About In Boats

Monthly newsletter

NC Coastal & Piedmont
Chapter of ACBS

March 2025



Ahoy Mates,

Finally, the days are getting longer and the temps are rising! Fast approaching will be my "traditional start of the boating season", which for me is St. Patrick's Day. In the meantime, there's plenty happening in March. But first I would like to thank Jim and Alice Dean, Bob and Molly Banta and my own dear mate for hosting our regional get-togethers. From the reports I got, a good time was had by all.

We start out the month of March with a **workshop at Robert and Patsy Blanchard's** place on the 8th. Featured will be Steve Filarsky doing a lettering and gold leaf application demonstration, and yours truly to talk about and demonstrate line usage and proper knot tying. If you have never been to the Blanchard homestead, that alone is worth the trip.

Coming up a couple of weeks later is the Sunnyland pre-show cruise on the St. Johns River. This is a really fun experience that I was lucky enough to be a part of last year and rates as a bucket list item to me. Oh, and then **they're having a little boat show in Tavares, FL (LOL)** which is another bucket list deal. Make the trip and kick off the 2025 season on a high note!

Looking ahead to April, the Cape Fear Community College show is on April 12th. This is a fun show because it is held at the marine technology building, which will be open with students and faculty there to answer questions. Two other factors that enhance the experience is the fact that the Wilmington River

Walk goes right through the show and downtown Wilmington is a short walk away. As you all should know, our chapter offers a scholarship to students in the wooden boatbuilding and marine service and manufacturing programs. We are also a **sponsor of the show so let's plan on heading** down there for it!

Cindy Jordan has arranged with her family to allow us use of the Bath Creek house again this year. The dates are May 16-20. Falling within that timeframe is the Tar-Pamlico River cleanup day on the 17th. It would be a nice gesture for our chapter members to pitch in somehow to help with the effort. More on this later.

Members Rob Weller and Larry Lettick have been busy taking the lead on a couple of projects where we can get together as a group and be of service to others. See page 7 of the newsletter for details. We had the best response yet to our monthly contest regarding the Lust varnish. I guess it takes something a little racy to get **y'all to participate! The contest queen has another one for this month on page 9, so please send in an entry. The category is "Tall Tales", so I know** there is plenty of material among us to have some fun with it.

If you have any boat stories or other anecdotes that the members might find fun/interesting, please submit it via email to the editor, and we are always interested in your ideas. Enjoy the newsletter!

Yours in classic boating,
Alan Hills, President

March 8th—Workshop at Blanchard Homestead at 10:30 AM

On our published calendar of events, we had March 1st down for a Mardi Gras event in **Beaufort**. **That didn't fly as there was no real interest.** We have to throw a few new things out there to find out what works and what **doesn't**. **This didn't.**

Member Robert Blanchard and his wife Patsy, have invited our chapter members to lunch at their homestead on Saturday March 8th. Some of you have been there, but most have not.

[Click here](#) to see the newsletter article and photos from an event at the Blanchard homestead in November 2023. Believe me when I say there are lots and lots of antique and classic things to see at the Blanchards—including boats. Gals and guys could spend a whole day just poking around. If you love photography, **you'll have a field day at the Blanchards.**

The Gold Leaf Man, Stephen Filarsky, will be there to demo how he applies gold leafed names to boats and other things. [Click here](#) to see his website. And do check out the art page.

Additionally, **Alan Hills, will do a short presentation on ropes, knots, and tying up your boat.** Given what we have observed at boat shows, we think there is more to be learned on this topic.



Plan to arrive at 10:30 AM. We'll need a head count for lunch so please [click here](#) to email me the number in your party by March 6th. Bring a prospective member along. We suggest if you have a distance to travel that you carpool with other members. The Blanchards live at 677 Poole Road East, New Hill, NC 27562. Their property is set way back off the **paved road on a dirt road.** **Robert's cell #: 919.601.7840.** If you have not been to Patsy and Robert's homestead—DO NOT MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY! We rate it: 5-star!

Cape Fear Community College Boat Show April 12th

Located on the RiverWalk in Wilmington on the banks of the Cape Fear River, this is one show that our members need to support by displaying their boats in the water or on the hard. Our chapter provides scholarships to students in their boat building and marine manufacturing programs. We also are sponsors of this show. [Click here](#) for information and [Click here](#) to exhibit your boat at this show.



Regional Chapter gatherings Saturday February 8th

Chapter members and guests contributed goodies to provide an interesting mix of food and appetizers for these indoor tailgate parties—a prelude to the Super Bowl which was played on Sunday February 9th. In all there were 30 attendees, 9 at the Hills, 11 at the Deans, and 10 at the Bantas. We appreciate the hosts and thank all those who attended for supporting these regional socials. Here are some pictures from the three gatherings.

Alan and Judy Hills at their home in New Bern

In addition to the hosts, attendees include Kate and Ted Clark, John Dougherty, Jim Hartman, Leif Eriksson, Austin Lewis, and Laird Stubbings (guest) for a total of nine. They ate wings and tacos with a variety of appetizers thrown in. Austin brought some yummy bake shop desserts to top it off. The guys checked out Alan's workshop and the progress on his Chris Craft Cavalier. After the meal the guys played Super Bowl Trivia which was won by Austin. His prize: horror socks. While the guys were testing their Super Bowl knowledge, Judy, Kate, and Ted played a card game. It was an afternoon of relaxation, fun, and comradery. Oh, and a side deal was made: Ted sold his Stone Horse wooden sailboat to Leif and Austin. They consummated the deal on Sunday. Might not have happened, if all three had not attended.



Austin catching his prize



Leif drinking up



John and Kate exchanging recipes



Alan & Austin chatting

Regional Chapter gatherings Saturday February 8th



Ted displaying his Eagle's colors



Jim displaying his Chief's colors

Jim and Alice Dean at their beach house in Wrightsville Beach

Jim reported that Anne Marie Hartman and her sister Susan from Niagara, NY, Jim Quinn, Gloria and Richard Morlock (new members), Tyler Brown and Stuart Benson were in attendance. Guests included John Moore and Glenn Schubert. A total of eleven attended. Jim had nautical flags hanging from upstairs balcony to guide us in, and had a select grouping of boat show posters on living room window. Alice made chili and corn spoon pudding, we toured a few boats across the street on docks, ate, and told some stories. Alice let Jim tie Anne Marie up for a Houdini escape game (just the hands and a slip knot trick). Great place! It was a very nice afternoon. Thanks to Anne Marie and Jim for this report and thanks to Alice and Jim for hosting! BTW, the Deans do rent out this beach house. Alan and Judy have stayed there several times and highly recommend it, especially for large families.



Regional Chapter gatherings Saturday February 8th



Bob & Molly Banta at their home in Raleigh

As reported by Molly: The one-word description for our Saturday social: FUN. Okay a second: LAUGHTER. Those are what peppered the afternoon between an addictive hors oeuvres and a bountiful buffet of scrumptious side dishes that somehow perfectly complemented pork tenderloin. Oh, but let's get back to the "fun" and "laughter" because that's what the afternoon was really all about. The host lead off with a magic (well, almost!) trick, and a round-robin of friendly competition included Clint Eastwood playing Mrs. Robinson! You had to be there. Laughter. Fun. Shared camaraderie. That's what it was. Attending were: (L to R, Back) Cindy Jordan, Pam Justice, John Justice, Neal Keeter, Bob Banta. (L to R Center) Molly Banta and Denise Keeter. (L to R Front) Jim Alexander, Sharon Conley and Bill Conley.



Tech Tips: Bow Poles from John Coffman—SML Newsletter

Editor's note: *John is a secondary member of our chapter and he is now the editor of the Smith Mountain Lake ACBS Chapter's newsletter. John and I have agreed to share material from our respective newsletters. John has a very funny style of writing which I know you will enjoy.)*

Imagine you are cruising across the lake with your partner by your side. You are enjoying the powerful engine of the boat and the gleaming vessel, proudly displaying your bow burgee flag in the wind. Suddenly, the flagpole detaches and strikes you on the head, leaving you unconscious. Your partner, who was more interested in the boat than anything else, throws you overboard. As you regain consciousness, bobbing in the water and holding the bow flag, you wonder how to prevent such an incident in the future. Here is a tip.

I learned this valuable tip from the late George Blosser during one of the first SML boat club workshops I attended. If I recall correctly, George found the idea in Classic Boating magazine. The concept involves using a hanger bolt, which has a machine screw thread on one end and a wood screw thread on the other end. First, drill a hole in the center of your flagpole and insert the wood screw end into the flagpole. Then, drill and tap your bow light (I used 1/4-20) so that you can secure it with the machine screw end. Now you simply screw the pole into the bow light before you launch. No more electrical tape wrapped around the pole trying to keep it in place. This method ensures that you will no longer experience the embarrassment of being stranded in the lake and having to shout for assistance.



1/4 x 20 hanger bolt

Plans Coming Together...Gotta' Love It!

We can't pass up the opportunity to acknowledge chapter member **Rob Weller** for taking the lead in organizing ACBS members in the Lake Norman area where he lives. There are members from our chapter and the Blue Ridge Chapter there. Rob has some ideas for them to pursue. No, they are not forming another ACBS Chapter, but it makes sense for members that live in a geographic area to come together.

Rob has approached the **Sea Scout Ship** in Denver, NC area about collaborating to help the Ship members and Ship leaders. They are very receptive to the idea and Rob hopes to develop that relationship. He has also approached the **Mooreville VFW Post** about giving vintage boat rides to veterans. They are also receptive to the idea.

Another leader is developing in the Washington area. **Larry Lettick** is helping to organize a clean up of some area of the Tar-Pamlico River on National Cleanup the Rivers day, Saturday May 17th. He has assisted us in making a connection with the Estuarium and they are help us to link with local kayakers. We also hope the local Sea Scout Ship will participate—but we are still working on that.

Larry is also exploring the possibility of **hosting the chapter's boat show in his waterfront community in Chocowinity.**

Our chapter will support Rob's and Larry's efforts in whatever way we can. We hope that other members will take "ownership" of events or projects to make their ACBS membership both fun and meaningful.



February Contest Entries

That's more like it! Love hearing from the guys and gals in the chapter! Some submitted more than one response, and all are worthy of being included. **Laugh your way through these:**

- Spread Lust on thick and let sit overnight...*Michelle Fegeley*
- Lust: dries fast, shines bright, sands smooth, overcoats quickly, costs too damn much!
Leif Eriksson
- As a young fella, this came naturally. Now I have to get it in a can. *Alan Hills*
- Nothing beats a good hand-rubbed Lust finish. *Michelle Fegeley*
- Lust: makes your woody sleek and shiny.
Jim Hartman
- Owners of antique and classic wooden boats do Lust after that glossy finish. Sometimes I think the fumes got to them. *Judy Hills*
- Total Boat Lust—the **only thing that'll make your woody shine brighter than a pirate's gold tooth at high noon!** *Michelle Fegeley*
- Honestly, I think the marketing person that **named this varnish "Lust" must have formerly worked for a nail polish or lipstick company.** *Judy Hills*
- Accentuate the curves, crevices of bows and aft quarters with this glassy, gooey stuff all over your wood. *Austin Lewis*
- Lust is a product used by all self-respecting connoisseurs of mixed drinks. Recipe for a Lust cocktail: 1 part Lust, 2 parts romantic essence, and 1 part 100 proof rum. Shake and serve over cracked ice! *John Dougherty*
- We have all experienced drying up a bit as we age. Our joints crack, our glow is fading.



ing. Enter pure Lust, to bring back our glossy sheen, breathe life into our old bones, and proudly show the world what an old girl can be! What am I? An antique wooden boat of course! *Anne Marie Hartman*

Lust High-Performance Varnish for Boats:

How exciting! You see, we are almost ready to set sail in our 110 foot Chris Craft sailing yacht for a long-awaited cruise. It should be a tantalizing adventure as my guy is excited about his new discovery. The name says it all: *Lust High-Performance for Boats*. This product should make our trip the best yet. My **man's a great**-looking guy but if this product truly *brings out his best and keeps out his worst, I know I'll soon overlook his protruding belly.*

Its advertised *high performance* will surely add some spice to our marriage. It thrillingly promises *great results although I'm questioning the quick finish*. I much prefer that it *lasts longer*, maybe giving me the *beautiful finish* that I have not had in quite some time.

Our marriage does need some type of *forgiving formula*. Maybe this product will help it to be *stable*. **If it works as promised, I'm sure that every captain's wife will enjoy some intimate Lust** in the pleasure of their stateroom. *Anonymous*

March Contest

So, here we have a photo of a wooden boat. *What's their story? What's the boat's story? What are they doing?* Where are they going? Use your imagination to tell us a tall tale! [Email](#) your thoughts to editor Judy Hills by 2/25/25. We'd love to hear from members and co-members.



Looking to Downsize? Check This Out!

New Bern Maritime Modelers Guild



Dan Griffin with his model of The Scottish Maid, 1810 schooner.

Shop Class hosts NBMMG meetings on the second Saturday of each month at 12PM. The Guild also produces a monthly newsletter featuring guild members work and maritime history.



[Newsletter](#)

[Click here](#) to check out Shop Class in New Bern
[Click here](#) for the New Bern Maritime Modelers Guild.

Tips from BoatUS

Many ACBS members are BoatUS members. Their magazine has something in it for owners of all types of boats including antique and classic. Since our members seem reluctant to contribute articles, here are a few applicable tips from the Feb/Mar edition.

- **Tip:** A study shows that life jacket wear rates are slipping. Wear yours when underway. We might also find ourselves unexpectedly in the water. Do this especially if you are boating alone.
- **Tip:** **It's never too early to teach children** about tools—safety and use. They might just become interested in working on old boats.
- **Tip:** When is the last time you took a child **for a ride on your boat? Start 'em young!**
- **Tip:** **It's time to let your representatives in Congress** know the need to reauthorize the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund—a fund that among other things provides money to construct and repair boating ramps. In case you did not know, taxes paid by boaters and anglers fund this program. We use these very ramps as well.
- **Tip:** Repurpose that vast collection of T-shirts that we know you have into a quilt. **Don't sew?** [Click here](#) for one company that will do it for you. What a great gift for the boater in your life!
- **Tip:** An estimated 33 billion tons of plastic enters the oceans every year. Do your part to help clean up our rivers which eventually make their way to the ocean by participating in National Cleanup the Rivers Day on May 17th.
- **Tip:** A single gallon of fuel can contaminate 750,000 of water. When fueling your boat **when it is in the water, don't rely on the nozzle's auto-stop and never "top off" your boat's fuel tank.**
- **Tip:** If you trailer your boat, find a pickup that has a couple of thousand pounds more towing capacity than the boat **package locked on the hitch ball. It's prudent** for its towing capacity to be 20% to 30% greater than the trailered weight of the boat/trailer combo.
- **Tip:** While most ACBS members tend to **avoid the big boat shows since they don't normally feature our "type" of boat, we** encourage you to attend to see products and gear that might help you solve a problem. Besides its fun to think what the **ACBS members' boats might be 50 years** from now. Which ones do you think will be the next classics?
- **Tip:** In the never-ending war against mold and mildew on our boats, be **proactive. Adding a liner that doesn't trap moisture** to a compartment will help ensure airflow—a mold deterrent.
- **Tip:** Pick the right mold retardant spray and re-apply according to directions to deal with existing mold and mildew.
- **Tip:** When cutting fiberglass, cover any exposed skin and use a face mask, preferably a sealed respirator equipped with an N95, R95, or P95 filter.
- **Tip:** Saving your vinyl seats: 1) wash-down and dry after every trip; 2) wipe, **don't vigorously scrub; 3) use a proper** cleaning product—NO bleach; 4) keep seats covered when not in use; and 5) if foam gets saturated—remove it, dry it, then replace it.

Selecting a New Prop

This is not a commercial message, just a boat prop guide that we happened to find that we thought might be of interest to you. To find all propellers that fit your engine, you will need to know your engine manufacturer, model or horsepower to determine which propellers will fit your boat. Once listed, you can then determine the size you are looking for. Once you provide the specifications on your engine, the guide will display all of the propellers that fit your engine. You will then be able to filter based on diameter, pitch, ma-

terial, # of blades, etc.

OR If you have the current model number of your existing propeller, the prop guide will display all available propeller matches that the company currently carries. [Click here](#) to access the guide on the Deep Blue Yacht Supply site.



EMBROIDERED CHAPTER LOGO SHIRTS

Now available. We have our logo with an embroidery company in New Bern. For \$8 each we can get almost any cloth item embroidered. You pick the shirt or other item.

[Contact](#) Alan Hills if interested.



Name Tags—**Don't have one? The First One is Free!**

Please remember to wear your name tags at chapter events so we can get to know you. If you have never received a name tag—the first one is free to those who hold primary membership in our chapter. The chapter pays and will have it shipped directly to you—you just need to ask for it. You may request additional name tags or a name tag for a co-member. [Click here](#) to read information on how to order. **We also have chapter logo ball caps for \$30.** [Email Alan Hills](#) if you want one.

Members who joined or renewed this past month include:

New: Horace Whitfield (Jamesville, NC)

Renewed: Cindy Jordan (Hillsborough, NC), Keith Colonna (Norfolk, VA), John Gray (Wilmington, NC), Robert Blanchard (New Hill, NC),

Welcome!

Total Membership: 71 NCC&P Primary Chapter: 60 Not Primary Chapter: 11

NC Coastal & Piedmont
Chapter of the ACBS
<https://www.vintageboat.org/>

President:
Alan Hills (term ends 2025)
252-514-8525
President@vintageboat.org

Vice-President:
Jeff Martinson (term ends 2026)
919-760-2349
Vice-President@vintageboat.org

Secretary:
Judy Hills (term ends 2025)
252-670-1913
Secretary@vintageboat.org

Treasurer:
John Dougherty (Term ends 2026)
321-662-6838
Treasurer@vintageboat.org

2025 Directors:
[Jim Alexander](#) (2025)
[Bill Conley](#) (2025)
[Jim Hartman](#) (2026)
[John Justice](#) (2025)
Kevin Leiner (2026)

Membership Chair:
Jim Alexander
919-960-0838
DirectorJim@vintageboat.org

Scholarship Chair:
Jim Alexander
919-960-0838
DirectorJim@vintageboat.org

Web Master:
Judy Hills
252-670-1913
Webmaster@vintageboat.org

Newsletter Editor:
Judy Hills
252-670-1913
Editor@vintageboat.org



The Raleigh-Durham-Chapel Hill Triangle Chapter of the Antique and Classic Boat Society, Inc. was officially formed on January 15, 2005 to provide a means through which individuals sharing a common interest in antique and classic boats can meet, share experiences and information, exchange ideas, and generate enthusiasm for all aspects of these unique boats. On March 21, 2019, the chapter officially changed its name to NC Coastal & Piedmont Chapter.

We promote and sponsor classic boating events, as well as educate our membership and the general public about these great craft. We partner with other clubs and organizations to promote awareness and appreciation for the history, research, repair, and restoration of these grand old boats to preserve them for future generations.

Calendar of Events & Meetings

Please note that dates, the places, and times listed for events may change. Watch your email for updates or check the [home page](#) of our website. **Newsletter deadline is the 25th of each month.** Please mark these dates on your calendar:

- 3/1 ~~Mardi Gras Street Carnival & Parade in Beaufort~~—This event was cancelled for the chapter due to lack of interest.
- 3/8 **Workshop at Blanchard's homestead in New Hill, NC Lunch** included. [Click here](#) to RSVP. Arrive at 10:30 AM.
- 3/21-23 [Sunnyland Chapter Boat Show](#) in Tavares, FL
- 4/12 [Cape Fear Community College Boat Show](#) in Wilmington
- 4/23 Chapter Board Zoom Meeting—all members invited
- 4/25-26 [Lake Hartwell, GA Rendezvous](#)—Blue Ridge Chapter
- 5/3 [NCMM Boat Show](#) in Beaufort, NC
- 5/16-20 Bath mini-vacation courtesy of Cindy Jordan
- 5/17 National Cleanup the Rivers Day
- 6/7 Chapter Workshop in New Bern area
- 6/20-22 [Chesapeake Bay ACBS Boat Show](#) in St. Michaels, MD
- 6/21 [Lake Lure Trailer Classic Boat](#) & Auto Show (proposed, but not finalized—Blue Ridge Chapter)
- 7/23 Picnic, Chapter Board Meeting, and run (Lake TBD)
- 8/16 International Vintage Boating Day & Marine Day at Wilmington Marine Center

What are the ACBS Definitions of Antique or Classic Boat?

Historic: Any boat built up to and including 1918

Antique: Any boat built between 1919 and 1942

Classic: Any boat built between 1943 and 1975

Late Classic: Any boat built 1976 to 25 years prior to the current year.

Contemporary: Any wooden boat built within the last 25 years.

Boats classified as Historic up through Late Classic will be judged separately as Preserved, Restored or Resto-Mod

Resto-Mod: Any historic, antique, classic or late classic boat that has been restored and modified with non-original parts and technology.

For more information [click here](#).